

The existence of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League nearly paralleled the span of Ms. Kamenshek's playing career from 1943–1954. During her career, Ms. Kamenshek all-around excellence on and off the field earned her the admiration of many fans and the respect of her peers.

Ms. Kamenshek was undoubtedly one of the finest players in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. The league's all-time batting leader with a .292 average, she had a smooth left-handed swing that earned her consecutive batting titles in 1946 and 1947. The leadoff hitter for the Rockford Peaches, she used her speed on the base paths to create havoc for her opponents as she compiled 657 stolen bases during her career. An all-around baseball player, Ms. Kamenshek's work with the glove once prompted former New York Yankees first baseman Wally Pipp to observe that she was "the fanciest fielding first baseman that I've ever seen, man or woman."

Ms. Kamenshek would lead her team, the Rockford Peaches, to four championships before her career was curtailed by a back injury. A driven person who was not going to rest on her laurels, she earned a bachelor's degree in physical therapy from Marquette University after her baseball career. In 1961, she moved to California where she worked as a staff physical therapist, supervisor and chief of therapy services for the Los Angeles County disabled children's services agency. After her retirement from Los Angeles County in 1980, she continued to treat patients in acute care on a part-time basis for the next 6 years.

In 1992, the story of Ms. Kamenshek and the other women who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was introduced to a new generation of Americans by the popular movie "A League of Their Own." In the movie, the character of Dottie Hinson, played by Geena Davis, was presented as the best player in the league and was named Dottie as a tribute to Ms. Kamenshek, who was affectionately known as Dottie to her friends. In 1999, *Sports Illustrated* named Ms. Kamenshek one of its top 100 female athletes of the 20th century.

On the field, Dorothy Kamenshek is widely regarded as the greatest female baseball player ever. Off the field, her legacy will be one of a pioneer who, through sheer talent and determination, achieved excellence in a sport that was once deemed to be beyond the physical capacity of females. Dorothy Kamenshek inspired generations of Americans to chip away at the glass ceiling to follow their dreams and pursue endeavors and careers of their own choosing.

She will be dearly missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF DANTE, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Dante, SD. Small towns like Dante embody South Dakota values, and are the cornerstone of our State.

Dante was founded as a railroad town when a group of farmers were concerned with their ability to haul grain between Wagner and Avon. The farmers approached the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad to set up a depot between the towns. After getting a petition signed, the railroad expanded to the newly formed town. Planted in 1907, Dante was incorporated in 1912. Originally called Mayo after H.T. Mayo who donated the land to the town, the railroad company objected to the name. Mr. Mayo was asked for a name to which he reportedly said, "Call it Dante's Inferno for all I care!" In 1911, Dante had flourished enough to support the Dante Bowling Alley and Pool Hall. The school was opened in 1912 and stayed open until 1971.

To celebrate the town's anniversary, Dante will be having music, a softball tournament, games and more. With something for everyone, this weekend's celebration is sure to be an enjoyable experience as Dante comes together to celebrate this historic anniversary. I would like to congratulate the people of Dante on reaching this historic milestone, and offer them best wishes on the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANN SOUTHERLAND

• Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, today I wish to bring special recognition to Dr. Ann Marie Phillips Southerland.

Dr. Southerland has elected to retire from Pensacola Junior College after 42 years of distinguished service. She first joined the faculty of the PJC home economics department in 1975 and was promoted as an assistant professor in 1978, an associate professor in 1981, a full professor in 1984 and department head in 1985.

Recognizing her devotion to student success and years of excellence in teaching, Dr. Southerland was appointed to the position of district director of vocational education in 1988 and district dean of vocational education in 1990. In this capacity, Dr. Southerland spearheaded efforts and initiatives to improve curriculum, instruction and assessment. She challenged her colleagues to empower students and ensure they would enter the world with the skills to compete and succeed in the increasingly competitive global marketplace.

The success of Dr. Southerland's contributions to Pensacola Junior College were measurable, and the college appointed her to assistant vice president

for academic affairs and career education in 2005. Yet Dr. Southerland's reach has been felt far beyond the academic corridors of northwest Florida. She has selflessly dedicated her time, experience and energy to causes throughout the State of Florida—serving as a member of the Council of Occupational Deans and working arm in arm with her counterparts in all 28 institutions in the Florida College System. What's more, her extensive body of academic literature has been published in numerous scholarly journals and periodicals.

I wish to take this opportunity to commend Dr. Southerland for her service and professionalism. She has been a role model and mentor for many faculty, staff and students at Pensacola Junior College. She has my sincere and heartfelt thanks for her devotion to educating tomorrow's leaders.●

DO THE WRITE THING WRITING CHALLENGE FINALISTS

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Do the Write Thing Challenge, or DtWT, is a national program that provides middle school students across the country with the opportunity to examine some of the most pressing issues facing their community. It encourages students to examine and confront the causes and the effects of youth violence through classroom discussions and writings. The focus is on preventative measures with an emphasis on personal responsibility. Since the program's founding in 1994, hundreds of thousands of students have reaped benefits from this community-based approach to addressing these complex and tragic issues.

Middle school students from cities across the Nation participated in DtWT. These students submitted creative and poignant essays, poems, plays, or songs about their personal experiences with youth violence. They wrote about the effect of violence in their lives and about how they can contribute to efforts to eradicate it. Students also pledged to carry out their ideas in their daily lives. This strategy, which empowers young people to make positive changes in their lives and communities, has surely had a positive impact on the communities in which these students reside.

Each year, a DtWT Committee made up of business, community, and government leaders from each participating jurisdiction reviews the writing samples and selects two national finalists. I am pleased to recognize this year's national finalists from Detroit, Karan Patrick and KeJaun Williams. Their creative pieces about youth violence are heart-wrenching and timely. Karan and KeJaun wrote personal pieces about the profound impact violence has had on their young lives and about the lasting consequences of their choices. They conveyed a deep understanding of the result of youth violence. I am impressed by the maturity they displayed